COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Monday, *the* *29th of July 1929.*
14th of Karkadagam 1104.

The House met at Half past Eleven of the Clock with the President in the Chair. Messrs. C. Barton Wright, P. C. Chanchan, A. G. Menon, S. S. Koder, T. K. Nayar, K. Mohamed Seethi, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar and A. R. Menon were absent.

Swearing in of New Members.

Rama Varmha Tampuran and Mr. K. Ramunni Menon took and subscribed the oath of allegiance.

Opening spech by the President.

President.—Hon'ble Members of the Cochin Legislative Council.—I stand before you at the commencement of the 5th Budget Session of the Cochin Legislative Council to extend to you all a hearty welcome and seek your permission to say a few words on this important occasion. It was my great privilege to take an active part in all the three budget sittings of the First Council, and I have a vivid recollection of the lively discussions carried on at those sittings in respect of various matters of administrative importance. In regard to the first Budget Session of the present Council, the fourth Budget Session of the Cochin Legislative Council, I had occasion to make a reference to it in one of the previous meetings though I was prevented from taking any part in it. In declaring this, the second Budget Session of this Second Council, open for business, I hope and trust that I can count upon the usual hearty and willing co-operation of one and all of you in conducting the responsible business of the session in a fitting manner.

The first matter I wish to touch upon is the recent floods in our State, and I believe that a reference to the same will not be inappropriate on an occasion like the present one. I, therefore, seek your indulgence to make a short statement thereon. The south-west monsoon conditions of this year were in the beginning very promising, and the *Tiruvathira Nattuvela* was more or less ideal with alternate rain and sunshine. We were just having the requisite rainfall, and the agricultural prospects were exceedingly good. Soon after the *Tiruvathira Nattuvela* left us, to be more precise, on Saturday, the 22nd Mithunam last, there was an unexpected rise of water in the Karuvannur

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river, so much so that the bund to the west of the bridge breached during the day time and that to the east during the night, submerging the Ettumuna and Panakulam Desams under water including the intervening Arattupuzha causeway. The Chief Engineer was at the spot both before and after the first breach and made the necessary arrangements for averting a breach on the east. The situation was causing considerable anxiety as the consequences of a breach on the east would be terrific. The Chief Engineer was again at the spot on the night and made an earnest attempt to protect the bund by placing sand bags. The water in the river was overflowing the bund throughout a long length, and the situation could not be saved by any possible human efforts. The bund breached by the excess flow of water over it. No time was lost in giving succour to the refugees. The stranded persons were taken to places of safety and food was given. The refugees were sheltered on both sides of Karuvannur, that is, Karuvannur T. B. on the south and the Cherppu High School on the north. The Government officers, helped by the local public, were on the alert and rendered immediate aid to the flood-stricken refugees. The Diwan Peishkar promptly carried out distribution of rice in these and other affected parts, and the people were given relief according to the necessities. The railway line between Chalakkudi and Pudukkad could not be safely used, and service was suspended for three days. The mail and the anchal had to be transhipped, and motor service was temporarily suspended. Some portions of the main roads were under water. The Tramway was affected, and traffic had to be stopped for a few days. It appeared at first whether we were having a repetition of the disastrous flood of 1099, for the signs were very alarming. Thank God, the flood was a short-lived one, and people were able to resort to their usual avocations after the lapse of three days. The Government have realised the necessity of rendering some help to poor people rendered homeless, and propose to give relief in this direction as soon as the requisite investigations are made. It was extremely unfortunate that we should have been visited with a flood of such magnitude within the sixth year of the last great flood when people had hardly settled to normal conditions. I wish to express on behalf of the Government their warm appreciation of the earnest and vigorous efforts of their officers and the non-official public in rendering first aid and relieving distress in a large measure.

An event of more than usual importance to which I would like to refer next is the contemplated visit of H. E. Lord Irwin, the Viceroy and Governor-General, to our State in November next. The last occasion when we had the honour of welcoming

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a Viceroy was in 1900 when Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy, visited Cochin. Nearly thirty years have now passed, and Cochin has passed through striking changes since. Need I say that one and all of us look forward with the keenest pleasure to the forthcoming memorable visit of H. E. Lord Irwin, and none will dispute that it is our earnest wish that the august and worthy representative in India of His Majesty, the beloved King Emperor, will have a pleasant stay here and carry with him a favourable impression of Cochin and her people?

One other matter which I cannot help mentioning before I proceed to the business of the day is the presence in our midst, as a colleague and actual participator in the deliberations of the Council, of a member of the Ruling Family of Cochin. Our Council is usually having the honoured presence of a few members of the Cochin Ruling Family as distinguished visitors, and I may assure the Hon'ble Members that their interest in the Proceedings of this Council is unbounded. We had not till now the happiness of having one of the Thampurans of the Royal Family of Cochin as an Honourable Member of the Cochin Legislative Council, and I need hardly point out that we attach considerable importance and value to the association of Rama Varmha Tampuran with us in equal partnership. Rama Varmha Tampuran's wide outlook and liberal views vouchsafed to him by his long and useful stay in England, wherefrom he returned only a few month ago, (and we remember the right royal welcome accorded to him on the occasion), are sure to stand him in good stead in the carrying on of his duties as a responsible Member of the Council. This is the first time in which opportunity is afforded of a free mingling of the prince and the peasant on an equal footing in a common platform and the occasions for crossing swords will be heartily welcomed by Rama Varmha Tampuran who, while he is prepared to rub shoulders with us, will, I trust, give ample evidence that he is to be reckoned as a fighter of no mean order. Let me accord to him on behalf of the Cochin Legislative Council a hearty welcome and convey our best wishes for his successful career in our midst. Without taking up any more time, I would now declare the Session open and beg leave to take up the business of the day in its due order.

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